

Chautauqua County Legislature
Organizational Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
“Live streamed on YouTube”
Legislative Chambers, Mayville, New York

Clerk Lee called the Organizational Meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and announced a quorum present with 2 open seats. (Absent: Hemmer)

Legislators Rankin and Niebel delivered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Nominations, Second and Roll Call Vote for Chairman of the Legislature

Clerk Lee: We will now accept nomination for Chairman of the Legislature.

Legislator Harmon: I would like nominate Pierre Chagnon.

Legislator Bankoski: I would like to second that.

Clerk Lee: Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I will entertain a motion to close the nominations.

Legislator Wilfong: Motion.

Clerk Lee: Do I have a second?

Legislator Bankoski: Second.

Clerk Lee: All those in favor say “aye”. All those opposed? Carried.

Unanimously Carried to Close Nominations

Clerk Lee: The nominee is Pierre Chagnon. When I call the roll for vote, please indicate your choice by stating the name of the nominee.

15 – Pierre Chagnon
1 – Absent
2 – Open Seats

Clerk Lee: Having received a required majority of the votes, I declare Pierre Chagnon to be the newly elected Chairman of the Chautauqua County Legislature for 2023.

Applause

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN

Chairman Chagnon: I guess I ought to take the opportunity to speak on here since I don't get this opportunity very often. I am honored to continue in the position of Chairman of the Chautauqua County Legislature, and humbled by your support. As we begin a new year, we will greatly miss two dear friends, Jay Gould and Paul Whitford, who have retired. And we welcome two new legislators who we look forward to getting to know and working with: Travis Heiser and Tom Nelson. This year will present other organizational changes which will provide us new opportunities to help and assist. We have a relatively new County Attorney, DPF Director, HR Director, Airport Manager, and a reorganization of Chautauqua County's three largest human services programs. As Legislators you have abundant skills, life experiences, and community connections so I urge you all to share in helping. This year will also present many challenges, including impacts from inflation, NYS energy policies, and the opioid crisis, managing workforce retention and recruitment, on-going effects of the pandemic, increasingly burdensome State mandates, workforce development needs, and pursuit of economic development opportunities. But please join me in being motivated by the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy". Onward and upward.

Applause

1st Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, that brings us to the privilege of the floor. Members of the public may comment on any subject relating to any local law, resolution or motion appearing on the agenda. Individual comments are limited to 3 minute and comments representing a group shall be limited to 5 minutes. Is there anyone wishing to address the first privilege of the floor? Anyone for the first privilege of the floor? Hearing none, we will continue.

Communications:

Clerk Lee: Our office has received 6 Communications which are listed on the agenda, are there any of which you'd like to have read aloud? Please contact our office if you'd like a copy of any of these.

1. **Letter – Resignation of County Attorney, Steve Abdella**
 2. **Certificate to Fill Vacancy on County Legislature – District 17**
 3. **Certificate of Acceptance to Fill Vacancy – District 17**
 4. **Certificate to Fill Vacancy on County Legislature – District 13**
 5. **Certificate of Acceptance to Fill Vacancy – District 13**
 6. **Letter – Appointment as Acting County Executive – Patrick J. Slagle, Esq**
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(REPUBLICAN) DESIGNATE NEWSPAPER

We, the undersigned members of the Chautauqua County Legislature, and representing the Republican party, one of the two principal parties into which the people of Chautauqua County are divided, do hereby designate for the year 2023 the POST JOURNAL as the Republican newspaper to publish the concurrent resolutions, election notices and official canvas, all pursuant to Section 214, paragraph 1, of the County Law.

Signed: Chagnon, Muldowney, Wilfong, Hemmer, Penhollow, Davis, Niebel, Gustafson, Proctor, Scudder, Vanstrom, Rankin

(DEMOCRATIC) DESIGNATE NEWSPAPER

We, the undersigned members of the Chautauqua County Legislature, and representing the Democratic party, one of the two principal parties into which the people of Chautauqua County are divided, do hereby designate for the year 2023 the OBSERVER as the Democratic newspaper to publish the concurrent resolutions, election notices and official canvas, all pursuant to Section 214, paragraph 1, of the County Law.

Signed: Bankoski, Parker, Nelson, Torres

APPOINTMENT OF MAJORITY LEADER AND ASSISTANT

We, the undersigned being a Majority of the Republican members of the Chautauqua County Legislature hereby designate Legislator Thomas Harmon as Majority Leader of the Chautauqua County Legislature for the year 2023 in accordance with Local Law No. 6-1969 adopted on the 2nd day of January 1970. And appoint, as Assistant Majority Leader, Legislator Lisa Vanstrom.

Signed: Chagnon, Davis, Wilfong, Hemmer, Penhollow, Muldowney, Niebel, Gustafson, Proctor, Scudder, Vanstrom, Harmon, Rankin

APPOINTMENT OF MINORITY LEADER AND ASSISTANT

We, the undersigned being a Minority of the Democrat members of the Chautauqua County Legislature do hereby designate Legislator Robert Bankoski as the Minority Leader of the Chautauqua County Legislature for the year 2023 in accordance with Local Law No. 6-1969 adopted on the 2nd day of January 1970. And appoint as Assistant Minority Leader, Legislator Susan Parker.

Signed: Bankoski, Parker, Torres, Nelson

RESOLUTIONS:

RES. NO. 1-23 Appointment of Travis Heiser as Legislator from District 17, Village of Panama And the Towns of Clymer, French Creek, Harmony and part of Busti – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 2-23 Appointment of Tom Nelson as Legislator from District 13, City of Jamestown Ward 1, District 1; Ward 2, District 1; Ward 3, District 4; Ward 6, District 2 and Ward 6, District 3 – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

Legislator Rankin: I'm really happy to support this appointment of Tom Nelson as a Legislator. He's done a lot of really good work for the City of Jamestown and as an educator in Frewsburg and I'm really happy to see him stepping up and being able to fill this position so thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: And at this point we would appreciate Judge Cass to join us and to swear in the two new Legislators.

**Swearing in New Legislators
By
The Honorable Judge Cass**

RES. NO. 3-23 Appointing Clerk of the Legislature – R/C Vote: 18 Yes; 1 Absent - UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 4-23 Appointing Deputy Clerk/Secretary to the Legislature – R/C Vote: 18 Yes; 1 Absent - UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 5-25 Confirming 2023 Salary of Public Defender – R/C Vote: 18 Yes; 1 Absent - UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 6-23 Designation of Official Newspapers – 2023 - UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 7-23 Delegate Authority to Chairman of Legislature to Correct Errors on Tax Rolls and to Provide Refunds and Credits of Taxes Pursuant to Section 554 and 556 of the Real Property Tax Law - UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 8-23 Confirm Appointment – Acting County Executive – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2nd Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Chagnon: That brings us to the second privilege of the floor. Are there anyone wishing to address the second privilege of the floor? In dispensing with all the rules and regulations of the privilege of the floor because I didn't see anybody here to speak to the

privilege of the floor. So that brings us to the point in the agenda where I would normally look to Legislator Gould but because he isn't here I'm looking at Legislator Scudder.

MOVED by Legislator Scudder, SECONDED by Legislator Bankoski and duly carried the meeting was adjourned. *(4:21 p.m.)*

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia L. Lee, Clerk of the Legislature/Kristi R. Zink, Deputy Clerk/Secretary to the Legislature